

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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P R 031829 Z APR 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 025

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: VIS, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN- PRG BILATERALS: FIFTH PLENARY

1. SUMMARY: PREPARED STATEMENTS IN FIFTH PLENARY SESSION OF GVN- PRG BILATERAL TALKS INDICATED NO CHANGE IN ESTABLISHED POSITIONS AND CONTINUED IMPASSE OVER AGENDA-- GVN ASSERTING THAT ITS AGENDA PROPOSALS CORRESPOND TO LETTER OF PARIS AGREEMENT; PRG CLAIMING THAT ITS VERSION REFLECTS REALITIES IN SVN. ACCORDING TO PRESS SPOKESMEN FOR TWO SIDES, IN DISCUSSION PERIOD FOLLOWING FORMAL PRESENTATIONS, GVN SUGGESTED THAT PRG JOIN IT IN PRIVATE TALKS AND OFFERED PRG " GUARANTEE" OF NON- ELIMINATION IN RETURN FOR NVA WITHDRAWAL. PRG RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO BOTH INITIATIVES. SIXTH PLENARY WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 12. END SUMMARY.

2. PLENARY PRESENTATIONS: GVN: NGUYEN LUU VIEN FOR GVN REGRETTED PRG TACTIC OF EMPLOYING " PRETEXTS", SUCH AS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF US TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND PRESENCE OF US CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS, TO EVADE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. HE TOOK NOTE OF ASSORTED COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT, INCLUDING PRG ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MERE TOKEN NUMBER OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES, FAILURE TO RETURN MANY ARVN PW'S AND CONTINUED INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MATERIALE FROM NVN (VIEN DID NOT MENTION SITUATION AT TONG LE CHAM).

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3. VIEN SAID GVN HAD ALSO NOTICED UNFORTUNATE TENDENCY ON PART OF PRG TO ATTEMPT TO POSE " PRECONDITIONS" TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATION, WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO FAILURE OF TALKS. HE URGED THAT PRG ADOPT MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS ON SUBJECT OF AGENDAS GVN VERSION OF WHICH HE REITERATED (DISCUSSION OF ELECTIONS, NCNRC AND TROOP DEMOBILIZATION AND REDUCTION), STRESSING THAT IT WAS FULLY IN CONFORMITY WITH ARTICLES 12 AND 13 OF AGREEMENT.

4. PRG: HIEU FOR PRG SAID CONFERENCE IMPASSE STEMS FROM FAULTY GVN APPROACH TO PROBLEM, TO WIT, FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND FAILURE TO ACCEPT REALITY OF " TWO ADMINISTRATIONS, ARMIES AND ZONES OF CONTROL AND THREE POLITICAL FORCES". HE GAVE LENGTHY AND POLEMICAL REVIEW OF US AND GVN WRONG- DOING, ACCUSING GVN OF " SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION" OF AGREEMENT AND DRAWING PARALLELS WITH POST-1954 SITUATION (PERIOD OF " CAMOUFLAGED AMERICAN INTERVENTION). HIEU THEN CALLED FOR " SCUPULOUS" RESPECT OF AGREEMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, WHICH WOULD ALLOW BILATERAL TALKS TO PROCEED (IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGENDA PROPOSED BY PRG: DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, NCNRC AND ELECTIONS).

5. PRESS CONFERENCES: GVN: AFTER REVIEWING VIEN'S PREPARED STATEMENT, DAN SAID THAT DURING DISCUSSION PERIOD GVN OFFERED TWO SUGGESTIONS, ONE PROCEDURAL AND ONE SUBSTANTIVE, DESIGNED TO MOVE TALKS OFF DEAD- CENTER: FIRST WAS OFFER TO INITIATE PRIVATE TALKS; SECOND WOULD HAVE " GUARANTEED" NON- ELIMINATION OF PRG IN RETURN FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NVA. PRG REJECTED BOTH OFFERS, SAID DAN, DECLARING WITH RESPECT TO FIRST THAT " FORM" OF TALKS IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE, AND WITH RESPECT TO SECOND, THAT THERE ARE NO NVA TROOPS IN THE SOUTH. THUS, SAID DAN, PRG ONCE AGAIN SHOWED ITSELF UNWILLING TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

6. IN Q & A DAN SAID PRG REJECTION OF PRIVATE TALKS PROPOSAL WAS NOT CATEGORICAL, PRG MERELY CLAIMED IT " HAD NOTHING TO HIDE," AND ADDED THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER PRIVATE TALKS AT SOME INDEFINITE FUTURE DATE SHOULD THEY REALLY SEEM NECESSARY. HE ALSO SAID THAT GVN WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBJECT TO HOLDING PLENARY SESSIONS AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

CONCURRENTLY. IMPORTANT THING WAS TO ESCAPE POLEMICAL
ABYSS TOWARD WHICH TALKS SEEM TO BE SLIDING.

7. PRG: IN DESCRIBING HIEU 'S PREPARED SPEECH, SAU
ELABORATED AT LENGTH ON HIS COMPARISONS BETWEEN SITUATION
TODAY AND POST- GENEVA '54, NOTING OMINOUS SIGNS (CIVILIAN
TECHS, ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGENS, THIEU VISIT TO US) THAT
US HAS STILL NOT LEARNED ITS LESSON AND PLANS TO CONTINUE
INTERVENTION IN SVN AFFAIRS. SAU CONFIRMED THAT HIEU
REJECTED VIEN OFFER OF PRIVATE TALKS ON GROUNDS THAT " WE
HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE", AND THAT ATTITUDE OF PARTIES
RATHER THAN " FORMS" OF MEETINGS IS IMPORTANT, WHILE NOT
RULING OUT PRIVATE TALKS IN THE FUTURE. HE BELITTLED
GVN PROPOSAL OF NON- ELIMINATION GUARANTEE IN RETURN FOR
NVA WITHDRAWAL, SAYING IT MERELY BETRAYS GVN PUPPET
MENTALITY IN FOCUSSING ON ALLEGEDLY EXTERNAL FACTORS IN
WHAT IS IN FACT SVN INTERNAL AFFAIR. SAU ALSO TOOK
OCCASION TO DENOUNCE US POW ACCOUNTS OF MISTREATMENT BY
HANOI AS " CALUMNIES" DESIGNED TO " WHITEWASH" US AND GVN
CRIMES. Q & A WAS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

8. BOTH SPOESMEN CHARACTERIZED POSTPONEMENT OF NEXT
PLENARY UNTIL APRIL 12 AS NON- SUBSTANTIVE: HIEN CLAIMED
HE WAS BUSY TOWARD END OF WEEK, VIEN SAID HIS SCHEDULE
WOULD NOT PERMIT USUAL TUESDAY MEETING.
WILLIAMS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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